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August 1, 1955

Dear Ralph:

Thank you for your letter of June 29. I knew about the desmids, but I think you misunderstood about Scenedesmus. Caspari was not talking about cell division, but about the mechanism of division of the plastid, which he thought was a sort of budding rather than fission.

The whole point about diatoms is that it is a simple mechanical affair. What fun to tease the people who analyse everything ~~for~~ in terms of segregating particles with that kind of analysis— so you see what I mean: you have here a rather unique mechanism of aging as well as of differential division.

I hope we do get to see you at Lansing, though I am not sure of going myself. I do hope you get a chance to visit us here. Meanwhile, without asking why I want it, could ~~you~~ you send me a brief curriculum vitae and a bibliographic list, in a couple of copies. Don't fear— I'm not meddling, but I can't tell you yet what I have in mind: just an idle thought.

So give the Grobstains my best; Esther is sorry for various reasons (not excluding 100° weather) we aren't in your company.

Yours sincerely,

  
Joshua Lederberg

Shoy!